

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 19, 1999      LB 505, 637

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. I will once more ask if there is unanimous consent to bracket the bill till May 14th. Seeing no objections, the bill is bracketed. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, LB 637 by Senator Brown. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 19, referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have amendments to the bill, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Senator Brown, to open on LB 637.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, LB 637 is a bill that is required by federal welfare reform legislation that centralizes the collection and disbursement of child support in one unit. Currently, child support is collected and disbursed by the clerks of the court in each county and, under LB 637, the clerks of the court will have a diminished role in the collection and disbursement of child support. We are required, by the federal legislation, to have one central place, especially for wage withholding that is a nonnegotiable item. We...everything about wel...federal welfare reform and welfare reform is that, for it to be successful, that the key ingredient is to increase child support collections. And so there have been a number of issues that have been required by the federal government and that states have needed to do in order to...to increase their child support collections, to make a system that is easier to understand, easier to do, interstate collection of child support, that is modern and computerized. Now, there's been a lot of gnashing of teeth about LB 637 and so, rather than go through the material, and I will because I think we're going to have plenty of time to do this, that's in the yellow packets that you received, I'd like to start out with a story. And the story is to get at some of the emotional aspect of this bill that people seem to be hung up on, the emotional aspect of the, quote, feds, unquote, telling us what to do, because I look at it a little bit differently. I look at it that you're a farmer and you have a very big farm and on one of your sections you contract to have someone farm it. Now, your goals for your farm are increased productivity. Each year you have a certain goal for increased productivity, and so